

Message Text

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63

ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSM-01 PM-03 INR-05

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 918

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2402

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT IS

SUBJ: RABIN STATEMENT REGARDING EGYPTIAN DEMOBILIZATION

1. IN MY MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON APRIL 5, HE EXPRESSED HIS DISPLEASURE AT WHAT HE CONSIDERS QUOTATION OUT OF CONTEXT OF A RECENT REMARK BY PRIME MINISTER RABIN. HE SAID THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD SPOKEN TO LABOR PARTY OFFICIALS IN RISHON LEZION LAST WEEK AND HAD SAID, AMONG OTHER THINGS THAT A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF EGYPTIAN SOLDIERS HAD BEEN RELEASED FROM ACTIVE DUTY-300,000 WAS THE FIGURE QUOTED AS ALLON RECALLED. ACCORDING TO ALLON, THIS STATE HAS BEEN USED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN ITS BRIEFING'S OF CONGRESS AS PART OF ITS JUSTIFICATION FOR THE SALE OF C-130 AIRCRAFT TO EGYPT. CLAIMING THAT THE RELEASE OF THE SOLDIERS SHOWS THAT SINAI II WAS JUSTIFIED AND THAT EGYPT IS LESS OF A THREAT TO ISRAEL. HE FELT THIS USE OF RABIN'S STATEMENT WAS IMPROPER AND INAPPROPRIATE.

2. ALLON EMPHASIZED THAT SINAI II IS STILL CRITICIZED BY LARGE NUMBERS OF ISRAELIS AND THAT RABIN HAD MADE THE REMARK IN A EFFORT TO EXPLAIN TO HIS AUDIENCE THAT THE AGREEMENT HAS PROVED ADVANTAGEOUS TO ISRAEL. USE OF SUCH A STATEMENT MADE IN A LOCAL PARTY MEETING IN THIS WAY, ALLON SAID, CONTRIBUTES TO THE GOVERNMENT'S DIFFICULTIES AND ADDS TO THE TROUBLES BETWEEN

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ISRAEL AND THE U.S. THE SUBJECT HAD BEEN A TROUBLESOME ITEM OF

DISCUSSION IN THE APRIL 4 CABINET MEETING.

3. I TOLD ALLON I WAS UNABLE TO COMMENT ON HOW THE STATEMENT
MIGHT HAVE BEEN USED IN WASHINGTON BUT THAT I WOULD REPORT
HIS REMARKS.

TOON

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